



Department of Justice

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KOKOMO MAN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN PRISON FOR RECEIPT OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

PRESS RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS - William P. Smith, 27, Kokomo, Ind., was sentenced to 240 months in prison yesterday by U.S. District Judge Sarah Evans Barker following his guilty plea to receiving child pornography. This case was the result of a investigation by the Kokomo Police Department, the Peru (Indiana) Police Department and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Homeland Security Investigations.

On January 12, 2010, the Kokomo Police Department responded to the temporary facility of the Howard County Public Library regarding a report from the staff that someone was viewing child pornography images on the computer. Library officials indicated that a person in the library was using one of the computers to transfer files from the computer to a piece of loose digital storage media, like as a thumb drive.

Library staff directed police to William P. Smith who was in the computer lab of the library, using the computer from which files were being transferred. When the officers inquired what he had been doing in the computer lab, Smith stated that he was taking images out of his email and placing them onto his digital camera. The officers escorted Smith from the library, and kept Smith's personal effects in order to prevent the destruction of potential evidence, items capable of storing digital images, including a digital camera containing a two gigabyte media card and eight compact disks.

The next day, January 13, 2010, Smith granted permission for officers to search his personal belongings confiscated from him at the library. Following Smith's consent to search, images of child pornography were located. When confronted with this information, Smith confessed that he was aware of the images of child pornography in his email and was not moving the files to give to the police. Smith admitted that he regularly collected child pornography from the internet.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney A. Brant Cook, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Barker also imposed lifetime years supervised release following Smith's release from prison. During the period of supervised release, Smith must register as a sex offender, engage in sex offender counseling, and is prohibited from having unsupervised contact with children, among other restrictions and requirements.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

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